



**China-CEE Institute**  
**中国—中东欧研究院**

ISSN 2786-2860  
Vol. 5 No. 07  
March 2025

# CHINA WATCH

## **A Systematic Interpretation of High-quality Development**

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# A Systematic Interpretation of High-quality Development

Gu Yan, Zhang Xinxin, and Ma Xiaoteng

High-quality development is an important category of Xi Jinping's economic thought. Since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC) in 2012, the Party Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping as the core has emphasized improving the quality and efficiency of economic development, and has clearly stated that China's economy has shifted from the stage of high-speed growth to the stage of high-quality development.<sup>1</sup> The CPC has revealed the profound logic of the theory of high-quality development, which it has imbued with rich meaning. As for the practice of high-quality development, it has formulated major strategic measures with the aim of promoting it in all regions and industries.

Since the 19th CPC National Congress (2017) put forward the important proposition of high-quality development, the academic community has conducted extensive and in-depth research on this topic and has achieved fruitful results. The relevant research results are mainly concentrated on the interpretation of content, the measurement of level, and the refinement of theoretical innovation. As for the interpretation of content, one study has focused on the transformation of development stages, development methods, and development characteristics.<sup>2</sup> Some scholars believe that high-quality development amounts to a great transformation of the material production mode in line with the trends of the times, and that it is a union of the development of productivity and the transformation of production relations.<sup>3</sup> One study has sought to understand it from aspects such as quality, efficiency, and innovation.<sup>4</sup> There has also been a study based on the perspective of economic development laws, which argues that shifting to high-quality development is an inevitable choice for breaking through

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<sup>1</sup> *Xi Jinping zhuzuo xuandu, di 2 juan* 习近平著作选读 [Selected Readings from the Works of Xi Jinping, Vol. 2] (Beijing: Renmin chubanshe, 2023), 24.

<sup>2</sup> Wang Yiming 王一鸣, "Bainian da bianju, gao zhiliang fazhan yu goujian xin fazhan geju" 百年大变局、高质量发展与构建新发展格局 [The great changes of the past century, high-quality development, and building a new development pattern], *Guanli shijie* (2020.12): 1-13.

<sup>3</sup> Zhou Wen 周文 and Li Sisi 李思思, "Gao zhiliang fazhan de zhengzhi jingjixue chanshi" 高质量发展的政治经济学阐释 [Political economics of high-quality development], *Zhengzhi jingji xuelun* (2019.4): 43-60.

<sup>4</sup> He Lifeng 何立峰, "Dali tuidong gao zhiliang fazhan jiji jianshe xiandaihua jingji tixi" 大力推动高质量发展积极建设现代化经济体系 [Vigorously promote high-quality development and actively build a modern economic system], *Hongguan jingji guanli* (2018.7): 4-6.

real dilemmas and bottlenecks, and that high-quality development is a manifestation of economic volume and scale growing to a certain stage.<sup>5</sup> As for the measurement of level, one study has measured supply levels and input-output situations from the perspective of production methods.<sup>6</sup> One measured labor productivity and total factor productivity from the perspective of economic growth quality.<sup>7</sup> One measured efficient, fair, and sustainable development from the perspective of major social dilemmas.<sup>8</sup> One has applied the measurement system developed by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to measure the economic development of developing countries to evaluate China's high-quality development.<sup>9</sup> Another study has constructed a measurement system based on the five dimensions of the new development concept.<sup>10</sup> As for theoretical innovation and refinement, scholars believe that high-quality development draws nourishment from the Marxist political economics theory of productivity and production relations, expands Marx's labor value theory, social reproduction theory, etc., and lays a theoretical foundation for building a quality-oriented socialist political economy with Chinese characteristics at the macro and micro levels.<sup>11</sup> As research deepens, high-quality development has also become a research hotspot at the industrial, field, regional, and city levels. Scholars have conducted rich and diverse research on relevant theoretical

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<sup>5</sup> Lin Zhaomu 林兆木, "Guanyu woguo jingji gao zhiliang fazhan de jidian renshi" 关于我国经济高质量发展的几点认识 [Some thoughts on the high-quality development of our country's economy], *Renmin ribao* (17 Jan 2018), 7.

<sup>6</sup> Guo Chunli 郭春丽, Wang Yun 王蕴, Yi Xin 易信, et al., "Zhengque renshi youxiao tuidong gao zhiliang fazhan" 正确认识和有效推动高质量发展 [Correctly understanding and effectively promoting high-quality development], *Hongguan jingji guanli* (2018.4): 18-25.

<sup>7</sup> Xu Xianxiang 徐现祥, Li Shujuan 李书娟, Wang Xianbin 王贤彬, et al., "Zhongguo jingji zengzhang mubiao de xuanze: yi gao zhiliang fazhan zhongjie 'bengkui lun'" 中国经济增长目标的选择: 以高质量发展终结“崩溃论” [China's choice of economic growth targets: ending the "collapse theory" with high-quality development], *Shijie jingji* (2018.10): 3-25.

<sup>8</sup> Zhang Junkuo 张军扩, Hou Yongzhi 侯永志, Liu Peilin 刘培林, et al., "Gao zhiliang fazhan de mubiao yaoqiu he zhanlue lujing" 高质量发展的目标要求和战略路径 [Goals, requirements, and strategic paths for high-quality development], *Guanli shijie* (2019.7): 1-7.

<sup>9</sup> Shi Bo 师博 and Ren Baoping 任保平, "Zhongguo shengji jingji gao zhiliang fazhan de cedu yu fenxi" 中国省际经济高质量发展的测度与分析 [Measurement and analysis of high-quality development in China's provincial economies], *Jingji wenti* (2018.4): 1-6.

<sup>10</sup> Chen Jinghua , Chen Yao , Chen Minmin , "Zhongguo jingji gao zhiliang fazhan shuiping, quyu chayi ji fenbu dongtai yanjin" [], *Shuliang jingji jishu jingji yanjiu* (2020.12): 108-126.

<sup>11</sup> Ren Baoping 任保平, "Xin shidai gao zhiliang fazhan de zhengzhi jingjixue lilun luoji ji qi xianshixing" 新时代高质量发展的政治经济学理论逻辑及其现实性 [Theoretical logic and reality of political economics of high-quality development in the new era], *Renwen zazhi* (2018.2): 26-34.

mechanisms, analytical frameworks, practical paths, and indicator systems.<sup>12-13</sup>

As the content of high-quality development continues to be enriched, the logical connection between relevant important categories becomes clearer, and the requirements for high-quality development in various fields and regions also become clearer, so the systematic interpretation of high-quality development has gained a more solid foundation and more favorable conditions. We believe that high-quality development has formed a theoretical system with rich contents, clear principles, and clear paths.

## **1. The proposition and framework system of high-quality development**

The concept of “high-quality development” was proposed after a period of theoretical gestation and practical incubation. It is based on an innovative application of Marxist political economics and an accurate judgment on China’s development practices. In the process of comprehensively building a modern socialist country with the high-quality development theme, theory and practice have had to complement and promote each other, and a scientific, theoretical system for high-quality development encompassing content, principles, pathways, carriers, and leadership has gradually formed.

### **(1) Overview of important discussions**

From the 18th National Congress of the CPC to the eve of the 19th National Congress of the CPC (2012–2017), the emphasis on high-quality development was usually expressed as “paying more attention to development quality” and “improving quality and efficiency.” For example, in November 2012, at the First Plenary Session of the 18th CPC Central Committee, General Secretary Xi Jinping clearly stated that “we must effectively shift the foothold of promoting development to improving quality and efficiency.” In April 2013, at the 2013 Annual Conference of the Boao Forum for Asia, General Secretary Xi Jinping emphasized, “We must intensify efforts to transform the economic development model and adjust the

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<sup>12</sup> Xin Lin 辛岭 and An Shaoning 安晓宁, “Woguo nongye gao zhiliang fazhan pingjia tixi goujian yu cedu fenxi” [Construction and measurement analysis of the evaluation system for high-quality agricultural development in China], *Jingji zongheng* (2019.5): 109-118.

<sup>13</sup> Jing Wenjun 荆文君 and Sun Baowen 孙宝文, “Shuzi jingji cujin jingji gao zhiliang fazhan: yige lilun fenxi kuangjia” 数字经济促进经济高质量发展:一个理论分析框架 [Digital economy promotes high-quality economic development: a framework for theoretical analysis], *Jingji xuejia* (2019.2): 66-73.

economic structure, paying more attention to development quality and to improving people's livelihood." In July 2014, when attending the Sixth BRICS Leaders' Meeting, General Secretary Xi Jinping emphasized, "We must adjust the economic structure and achieve higher-quality development." In October 2017, General Secretary Xi Jinping pointed out in his report to the 19th National Congress of the CPC that "our country's economy has shifted from a stage of high-speed growth to a stage of high-quality development." Since then, General Secretary Xi Jinping has systematically expounded on the great significance, rich content, status and role, implementation pathways, and practical requirements of high-quality development.

## **(2) Systematized construction**

In June 2023, when presiding over the sixth collective study session of the Political Bureau of the 20th Central Committee, General Secretary Xi Jinping pointed out that "promoting the systematization and academicization of theory is an inherent requirement and important path for theoretical innovation." Based on the systematic study of General Secretary Xi Jinping's important discourse and the combing of existing research outcomes, this article intends to make new contributions to the research on high-quality development from a systematized perspective. Building a comprehensive framework mainly from five levels—content, principles, pathways, carriers, and leadership—it strives to create new interpretations and comprehensive, integrated innovations to the theoretical system of high-quality development. It also strives to provide a valuable reference for the further comprehensive grasp of the rich content of high-quality development and an accurate grasp of its principles and requirements, systematically combing out its implementation pathways, implementing it in important carriers, and strengthening the Party's leadership over high-quality development. The first level is the rich content of high-quality development. Engels pointed out that "Every new insight of a science involves a revolution in the technical terms of that science."<sup>14</sup> General Secretary Xi Jinping pointed out at the Symposium on Philosophy and Social Sciences that we should "create new concepts, new categories, and new expressions that are easy for the

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<sup>14</sup> Friedrich Engels, "Editor's Preface to the First English Translation," in Makesi 马克思 [Karl Marx], *Ziben lun, di yi juan: zhengzhi jingji piban* 资本论, 第1卷: 政治经济学批判 [Capital, vol. 1: A Critique of Political Economy], trans. Central Compilation and Translation Bureau for Works of Marx, Engels, Lenin, and Stalin (Beijing: Renmin chubanshe, 2004), 32.

international community to understand and accept.” The academic community also regards concepts as the first element in defining theories.<sup>15-16</sup> Marx, for example, starting from the concept of the commodity, built the entire theoretical edifice of Marxist political economics. As a new term, new category, and new theory in Xi Jinping’s economic thought, the first thing that needs to be clarified about high-quality development is its content or meaning. The second level is the requirement of principles for high-quality development. Marxist epistemology points out that the essence of cognition is the active reflection of the subject based on practice. General Secretary Xi Jinping has pointed out: “The source of a theory can only be real life, rich and vivid, and its driving force can only be the practical requirements of solving social dilemmas and problems.” The Party’s theoretical innovation originates from practice, and it also serves to better guide practice. Scientific theories and great practice always stimulate and reflect each other. Therefore, closely combining the content of high-quality development with reality will form the requirement for general principles, which will play an important guiding and leading role in the practice of development in various fields and regions. The third level is the selection of pathways for high-quality development. From the perspective of practicality, high-quality development must be guided by the requirement for principles, and the selection of pathways that can be implemented must be clearly defined, so that the content and the concept can truly be transformed into strategies and specific actions. The fourth level is the important carrier of high-quality development, namely the carrier of path selection at the field level and spatial level. The fifth level is the leadership for high-quality development. High-quality development is an important category of Xi Jinping’s economic thought; it is also the latest achievement of the Sinicization of Marxist political economics and the latest achievement of political economics with Chinese characteristics. The essential feature of socialism with Chinese characteristics is the leadership of the Communist Party of China (CPC). Therefore, high-quality development must inevitably adhere to the leadership of the CPC. Upholding the Party’s overall leadership over high-quality development not only reflects the nature of our country’s economic and social development, but also determines the direction of development.

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<sup>15</sup> David A. Whetten, “What Constitutes a Theoretical Contribution?” *Academy of Management Review* 14.4 (1989): 490–95.

<sup>16</sup> Jin Bei 金磊, “Guanyu ‘gao zhiliang fazhan’ de jingjixue yanjiu” 关于“高质量发展”的经济学研究 [Economic Research on “High-quality Development”], *Zhongguo gongye jingji* (2018.4): 5–18.

Proceeding from content, principles, pathways, and carriers to leadership actually answers a series of questions, such as what is high-quality development, how to do it, how to achieve it, who will carry out its implementation, who will lead it correctly and how. It forms a theoretical system that is interconnected, progressive, and logically rigorous.

## **2. The rich content of high-quality development**

Since the 18th National Congress of the CPC (2012), the Party Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping at its core has focused on changes in China's environment and conditions for economic development, and first revealed the concept of high-quality development as a stage of development. This is the logical starting point of its essential attributes, starting from which concepts such as new economic forms, guiding and practical development principles and themes, the active development strategies derived therefrom, and testing standards for development outcomes have been successfully endowed with rich content for high-quality development. In the constant interaction between theory and practice, the category of high-quality development has become increasingly important in Xi Jinping's economic thought, and even within the theoretical edifice of Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era; it has become the primary task of building a modern socialist country in an all-round way, and it is one of the essential requirements for Chinese-style modernization. At this point, in terms of content, high-quality development has become a very rich category, unified with respect to the stages, forms, concepts (themes), strategies, and effectiveness testing standards of development, as well as primary tasks, one of the essential requirements, and the firm truths of the New Era.

### **(1) High-quality development as a development stage**

When the Party Central Committee first formally proposed high-quality development, it focused on expressing it as a development stage. In October 2017, General Secretary Xi Jinping pointed out in his report to the 19th National Congress of the CPC that China's economy had shifted from a stage of high-speed growth to a stage of high-quality development. Economic development has distinct stages. From the Marxist theory of the stages of human social development, human society can be divided into primitive society, slave society, feudal society,

capitalist society, and communist society, and corresponding to these are different stages of economic development. From the perspective of the theory of socialism with Chinese characteristics, the socialist economy is the economy in the primary stage of communism. We are in the primary stage of socialism, so high-quality development, as a stage of development, must be a stage in the primary stage of socialism. At the same time, compared with previous stages of development, this stage has reached a new starting point in terms of economic aggregate and per capita income level, and a series of new changes have emerged in the economic structure and development momentum. Changes in quality, efficiency, and momentum have been accelerated, and the effective improvement of economic quality and the reasonable growth of quantity have become important characteristics.

In December 2017, General Secretary Xi Jinping pointed out at the Central Economic Work Conference that high-quality development means shifting from asking “Do we have it?” to “Is it coming along well?” In July 2020, he further pointed out at the meeting of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee that China has already entered the stage of high-quality development. During this stage, the basic conditions for China’s economic and social development, the internal and external environment, and the major social contradictions have undergone profound changes. Clearly putting forward high-quality development as a stage of development will help us to correctly understand the historical position of the Party and the people’s cause, and provide a fundamental basis for clarifying the central tasks of the stage and formulating the correct lines, principles, and policies.

## **(2) High-quality development as a development form**

Development often takes different forms in different economies and at different stages. For example, judging from the economic growth rate, some economies have shown a high-speed growth trend at a certain stage, while others have shown medium-high-speed or low-speed growth. Some countries have even experienced zero growth or even negative growth for many years. For example, from the perspective of development momentum, some economies rely mainly on resource input, some mainly rely on the size of the labor force, some mainly rely on innovation-driven development, and some economies show changes in the transformation of development momentum at different stages of development. Also, for



example, from the perspective of income distribution, capital returns account for a large proportion of the gross national income of some economies, while labor returns account for a large proportion in some economies. There are also many economies that see an increasing proportion of capital returns and a decreasing proportion of labor returns, or vice versa, at a certain stage of development.

In the high-quality development stage, China's economy has shifted from high-speed growth to medium-high-speed growth, the economic development model has shifted from extensive growth based on scale and speed to intensive growth based on quality and efficiency, the economic structure has shifted from focusing on incremental capacity expansion to adjusting the stock and optimizing the incremental capacity at the same time, and the driving force of economic development has shifted from traditional growth points to new growth points. These trend changes indicate that China's economy is evolving towards a stage with a more advanced form, a more complex division of labor, and a more reasonable structure. At the 2017 Central Economic Work Conference, General Secretary Xi Jinping systematically expounded on the new characteristics of the high-quality development stage in terms of supply, demand, input-output, distribution, and macroeconomic cycle. With this as a reference, high-quality development also means the greater integrity and stronger competitiveness of the industrial system, personalized, diversified and continuous upgrading of consumer demand, continuous improvement in the contribution rate of scientific and technological progress and total factor productivity, income distribution that more fully reflects the contribution of factors under the premise of distribution according to work as the main body, a smoother and more orderly macroeconomic cycle, and so on.

### **(3) High-quality development as a concept of development**

A concept of development is a strategic, programmatic, and guiding requirement for development. Different development stages and forms require different development concepts to correspond to them, so as to better understand and apply the various relationships and laws of economic construction. If the concept of development is correct, the goals and tasks will be easy to determine, and the policy measures will also be easy to determine. At this stage of high-quality development, in the process of transforming towards a higher level of development,

new scientific concepts that are compatible and suitable are needed as principles to guide development practice. Based on a profound summary of changes in China's internal and external environment, a systematic review of prominent dilemmas and problems in China's development, and an in-depth grasp of the laws of economic and social development, a new development concept centering on innovation, coordination, greenness, openness, and sharing has emerged. This is the overall guiding principle and development idea for the high-quality development stage, which systematically answers a series of theoretical and practical questions about the purpose, motivation, methods, and paths of development.

In December 2017, General Secretary Xi Jinping pointed out at the Central Economic Work Conference that high-quality development is a development that can well meet the people's growing needs for a better life and embodies the new concept of development; it is a development in which innovation becomes the primary driving force, coordination an endogenous feature, green a universal form, openness the only route, and sharing the fundamental purpose. During his inspection tour in Hubei in April 2018, he emphasized that promoting high-quality development is the fundamental requirement for doing a good job in economic work. During his inspection tour in Fujian in March 2021, he further pointed out that the new concept of development and high-quality development are inherently unified. In the same month, he emphasized when attending the deliberations of the Qinghai delegation at the Fourth Session of the 13th National People's Congress that high-quality development is the theme of China's economic and social development through the "14th Five-Year Plan" (2021–2025) and even longer, and that it is related to the overall situation of China's socialist modernization construction. Development themes and fundamental requirements also fall under the category of development principles and can be seen as a reaffirmation and concretization of development concepts in certain periods and key areas.

#### **(4) High-quality development as a development strategy**

To implement the new concept of development as a development principle and theme of high-quality development, turn it into action, and produce results, it is necessary to formulate and implement appropriate development strategies, think about and grasp a series of major issues facing future development with a broader vision and a longer-term perspective, and thus

effectively carry out various tasks. In August 2019, at the fifth meeting of the Central Financial and Economic Affairs Commission, General Secretary Xi Jinping emphasized that China's economy has shifted from a stage of high-speed growth to a stage of high-quality development, which has put forward new requirements for regional coordinated development. At this meeting, he clearly called for the formation of several new sources of power that can drive high-quality development across the country.

In fact, high-quality development is fully reflected in China's major development strategies. For example, in accordance with the requirements of high-quality development, the implementation of the innovation-driven development strategy must achieve high-level scientific and technological self-reliance; the implementation of the rural revitalization strategy must focus on industrial revitalization and improve agricultural innovation, competitiveness, total factor productivity, quality, efficiency, and overall quality; implementation of major regional strategies and regional coordinated development strategies necessitates building a regional economic layout and land space system with complementary advantages and high-quality development; implementation of the new urbanization strategy must focus on people and the improvement of quality; implementing an open strategy of mutual benefit and win-win requires building a new open economic system at a higher level and the joint construction of the "Belt and Road" with high quality. To promote high-quality development, we must also take accelerating the construction of a new development pattern as our strategic basis, organically combine the implementation of the strategy of expanding domestic demand with deepening supply-side structural reforms, and promote the virtuous interaction of the dual domestic and international cycles. These major development strategies also constitute specific strategic paths for promoting high-quality development, which will be discussed in detail below.

#### **(5) High-quality development as a test of development effectiveness**

As we enter the stage of high-quality development and evolve towards a higher level of development form, we will use the new concept of development to guide new strategic actions. The final results must also be measured and tested based on the standards of high-quality development, so as to better adapt to the development stage, echo the development form, and

maintain consistency with the development concept and strategy. The quality and effectiveness of development means that investments have returns, products have markets, companies have profits, employees have incomes, governments have taxes, and the environment improves. This is the kind of development we want. In April 2023, at the thematic education work conference on studying and implementing Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era, General Secretary Xi Jinping pointed out that the results of the thematic education should be tested by new achievements in promoting high-quality development. Only by adhering to a high-quality “results-oriented” approach can we ensure that economic and social development is not biased, discounted, or distorted. Only then can we educate and guide the majority of Party members, cadres, and the people to keep in mind the “big things of the country,” take quality first and efficiency first as the measurement standards, work hard, seek practical results, focus on problems, and advance despite difficulties.

**(6) High-quality development as the primary task on the new journey and as one of the essential requirements of China’s modernization**

Since socialism with Chinese characteristics has entered a new era, we have built a moderately prosperous society in all respects through solid promotion of high-quality development. In October 2022, the report of the 20th National Congress of the CPC pointed out that from now on, the central task of the CPC is to unite and lead the people of all ethnic groups in the country to comprehensively build a modern socialist country, realize the second centenary goal, and comprehensively promote the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation with Chinese-style modernization. The Party Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping at its core has proposed that high-quality development is the primary task of building a modern socialist country in an all-round way, and has made achieving high-quality development one of the essential requirements for China’s modernization. In December 2023, the Central Economic Work Conference further proposed that we must adhere to high-quality development as a firm truth in the new era. From the development stage and development form to the development concept, development strategy, and development effectiveness testing standards, and then to the primary task, one of the essential requirements and the firm truth of the new era, the content of high-quality development has been continuously enriched according to the logical lines of

progressive layers. As an important category of Xi Jinping's economic thought, high-quality development has become more and more commanding and pivotal.

### **3. Principles and requirements for high-quality development**

Theoretical innovation comes from practical innovation. After the results of theoretical innovation are formed, they provide theoretical guidance for new practical innovations, thus forming a virtuous interaction between theoretical innovation and practical innovation. High-quality development is not a mysterious concept, but a scientific theory, which derives from and guides practice. All industries and regions must correctly grasp the practical principles and requirements of high-quality development based on a deep understanding of the theoretical content of high-quality development. When General Secretary Xi Jinping attended the deliberation of the Jiangsu delegation at the first session of the 14th National People's Congress in March 2023, he put forward the "four musts" for high-quality development. We believe that these "four musts" provide a fundamental guideline for firmly grasping the primary task of high-quality development, and are the required principles for promoting high-quality development on the new journey.

#### **(1) Leading by concept**

To promote high-quality development, we must fully, accurately, and comprehensively implement the new development concept, and always grasp, measure, and promote development with the inherent unity of innovation, coordination, green development, openness and sharing. Concepts are the forerunners of actions, and certain development practices are led by certain development concepts. Whether the development concept is right or not fundamentally determines the results, even the success or failure, of the development. High-quality development is the kind of development that embodies the new development concept. Throughout the process and in all fields of economic and social development, we must take high-quality development as the theme and the new development concept as the baton and traffic light, and strive to advocate innovation, focus on coordination, advocate green development, deepen openness, and promote sharing. All industries and regions must immediately adjust their understanding, resolutely correct their behaviors, and completely

abandon practices that are not adapted to, unsuitable for, or even violate the new development concept, and truly think about problems, make decisions, and do things in accordance with the requirements of high-quality development. Since the New Era began, China has used development concepts as guides for development actions, leading to historic achievements and historic changes in development practices. For example, by practicing the important concept of “Green mountains are gold mountains,” and by unswervingly promoting the green transformation of development methods, in the past decade, China has supported an average annual economic growth of 6.2%, with an average annual energy consumption growth rate of 3%.<sup>17</sup> China has built the world’s largest carbon market and clean power generation system, and its high-quality development has achieved green “acceleration.”

## **(2) Relying on quality conversion**

To promote high-quality development, we must better coordinate the effective improvement of quality and the reasonable growth of quantity, always adhere to quality first and efficiency first, vigorously enhance quality awareness, regard quality as life, and pursue high quality. The conversion of quantity into quality is a basic law of materialist dialectics and also a basic law of economic development. Economic development is a spiral upward process, which is not linear. When the quantity accumulates to a certain stage, it must turn into qualitative improvement. China’s economic development must also follow this law. China’s economy continues to write its record of a miracle of rapid development. The long-term accumulation of total volume is approaching the qualitative leap. We must focus on improving quality and efficiency. At the same time, emphasizing quality does not mean not quantity and speed. China is still in the primary stage of socialism. To achieve the level of moderately developed countries in terms of per capita GDP by 2035 and to build a modern socialist country in an all-round way by the middle of this century, economic development must maintain a certain speed, and quality improvement must be based on total growth. All industries and regions must correctly grasp the law of mutual transformation of quality and quantity, support

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<sup>17</sup> Zheng Zhajie 郑栅洁, “Chuangxin he wanshan hongguan tiaokong jingji gao zhiliang fazhan” 创新和完善宏观调控推动经济高质量发展 [Innovating and improving macroeconomic regulation to promote high-quality economic development], *Xi Jinping jingji sixiang yanjiu* (2023.4): 11–16.

qualitative leap with quantitative accumulation, and drive quantitative growth with qualitative improvement. All industries and regions must correctly grasp the law of converting from quantity to quality, support the qualitative leap with quantitative accumulation, and drive quantitative growth with qualitative improvement.

At present, many areas of China's economic and social development have shown the quality conversion trend. In the field of innovation development, for example, R&D investment has continued to increase, and the number of innovation entities has continued to expand, which has strongly supported the breakthrough of key core technologies, and the new technology breakthroughs have effectively driven the emergence of new industries, new formats, and new scenarios. China's total R&D funding has increased from more than 1 trillion yuan in 2012 to more than 3 trillion yuan in 2022. The ratio to GDP has exceeded that of the European Union and is close to the average level of OECD countries. A number of major scientific and technological achievements have been made, such as the deep-sea submersible Jiaolong diving into the sea, the rockets of the Chang'e Project reaching the moon, and the launching of the Xihe satellite for solar exploration. Various "bottlenecks" in technology in the areas of integrated circuits, high-speed rail, and large aircraft are being solved at an accelerating pace. 5G applications have been integrated into two-thirds of the major industries of the national economy, and the scale of our digital economy ranks second in the world.

### **(3) Driven by reform and opening up**

To promote high-quality development, we must unswervingly deepen reform and opening up, and deeply transform the development model, in order to promote quality changes through efficiency and motivic changes, and to accelerate the formation of sustainable high-quality development systems and mechanisms. Reform and opening up is the only way to uphold and develop socialism with Chinese characteristics. It is a key move that determines the fate of contemporary China, and one that determines the realization of the "two centenary goals" and the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. To provide a more solid material and technological foundation for building a strong country and rejuvenating the nation, high-quality development must further liberate and develop productivity, which inevitably requires seeking momentum from reform and vitality from opening up. Reform and opening up are only in

progress, not completed. All industries and regions must persist in unremitting reform and opening up, using reform and opening up to gather new elements, activate new momentum, open up new tracks, and create new advantages for high-quality development, so that the vitality of domestic and international markets, traditional and emerging industries, and state-owned and private enterprises can fully flow.

The construction of the free trade pilot zones and Hainan free trade port embodies the new impetus created by reform and opening up in the new era. In 2022, the 21 pilot free trade zones achieved a total import and export volume of 7.5 trillion yuan, with actual foreign investment exceeding 220 billion yuan. With a land area of less than 0.4% of the country, they achieved 17.8% of the country's imports and exports and actually used 18.1% of the country's foreign investment.<sup>18</sup>

#### **(4) Oriented towards a better life**

To promote high-quality development, we must take meeting the people's growing needs for a better life as the starting and end points, continuously transform the fruits of development into quality of life, and constantly enhance the people's sense of gain, happiness, and security. The people's yearning for a better life is our goal. The people's stand is the fundamental political stand of the CPC and a distinctive feature that distinguishes Marxist parties from other parties. High-quality development is development that can well meet the peoples' growing needs for a better life, and it is also development in which sharing is its fundamental purpose. The inherent requirement of high-quality development is to adhere to people-centered development philosophy, and to take improving people's well-being, promoting their all-round development, and steadily moving towards common prosperity as the starting and end points. All industries and regions must adhere to the principle of ensuring and improving people's livelihood in the course of development, reasonably meet the people's more personalized, diversified, and high-level needs for material and cultural life, and actively respond to the people's increasing demands for fairness, justice, democracy, the rule of law, security, and the environment, so that the people's sense of gain, happiness, and security can be more

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<sup>18</sup> Wang Wentao 王文涛, "Nuli jianshe geng gao shuiping zimao shiyan qu" 努力建设更高水平自贸试验区 [Strive to build higher-level free trade pilot zones], *Renmin ribao* (6 Nov 2023), 11.



substantial, more secure, and more sustainable.

At present, my country has built the world's largest education system and social security system. The average life expectancy is already among that of the top middle- and high-income countries, and the human development index is moving from a "high human development level" to an "extremely high human development level." At the same time, garbage sorting and the "toilet revolution" are booming in urban and rural areas, and all the "little things" of the people's livelihood are converging one by one, lighting up people's dreams of a better life.

#### **4. Path selection for high-quality development**

Under the guidance of the principles and requirements of high-quality development, actions to achieve high-quality development must be implemented in a way that is highly feasible and effective. General Secretary Xi Jinping has systematically expounded on the inevitable path, strategic basis, and inevitable requirements of high-quality development, and has planned and deployed a series of major strategic measures. We believe that these statements and initiatives can be summarized into eight aspects that collaborate and complement each other, forming an important path for achieving high-quality development. Among them, high-level scientific and technological self-reliance can be seen as a strategic guide for promoting high-quality development, a high-standard market system and high-level opening up are the source of motivic force, a highly competitive modern system and a highly coordinated economic layout are important carriers, a high-quality ecological environment is a strong support, high-quality living is the ultimate goal, and the benign interaction between high-quality development and high-level security is a fundamental guarantee.

##### **(1) High-level scientific and technological self-reliance**

General Secretary Xi Jinping has pointed out that accelerating the realization of high-level scientific and technological self-reliance is the only way to promote high-quality development. High-quality development inherently requires major breakthroughs in scientific and technological innovation. Since the beginning of the New Era, China's ranking in the global innovation index has risen sharply, and its scientific and technological innovation capabilities have been significantly enhanced. It is transforming from a "follower" to a "runner-

up” and “leader.” Whether we can accelerate this transformation and to what extent we can achieve it ultimately depends on high-level scientific and technological self-reliance. Considering domestic development conditions, the extensive growth of the past that relied mainly on low-cost, high-intensity input of resource factors and labor is unsustainable. There is an urgent need to improve the quality and efficiency of development, especially to rely on scientific and technological innovation to drive industrial innovation and form new economic growth points. Considering the international environment, the current global economic recovery is weak, local wars and even conflicts are frequent, and the world has entered a new period of turbulence and change. In particular, the international political and economic structure has undergone profound adjustments. China’s development is facing suppression and containment from the United States and the West, and the “stranglehold” problem is prominent. At the same time, China also needs to seize the new opportunities brought about by the new round of scientific and technological revolution and industrial transformation. Therefore, high-level scientific and technological self-reliance plays a strategic leading and pioneering role in high-quality development, and determines how far the road of high-quality development can go.

## **(2) A high-standard market system**

General Secretary Xi Jinping pointed out that we must deepen the market-oriented reform of factors, build a high-standard market system, and accelerate the construction of a unified national market. China’s development is based on the socialist market economic system. To promote high-quality development, we must build a high-standard market system that matches it, make factor allocation more efficient and orderly, make property rights incentives play a greater role, and continuously transform the advantages of the socialist market economic system into governance effectiveness. Since the New Era began, China’s socialist basic economic system and market economic system have been continuously improved, but there are also problems such as the poor flow of factors such as land and labor; the market order of fair competition has not yet been fully formed, and the social credit system needs further optimization. All of these are still far from the higher standards of high-quality development. This requires accelerating the construction of a high-standard market system, based on a unified

national market, forming a system and mechanism that combines an effective market, an efficient government and dynamic enterprises, improving basic institutional arrangements such as property rights and market access, improving the macroeconomic governance system, promoting the market-based allocation of factors, and forming a market environment that is efficient, standardized, and has fair competition, so that the path of high-quality development will become increasingly solid.

### **(3) High-level opening up to the outside world**

General Secretary Xi Jinping pointed out that we must continue to expand high-level opening up to the outside world and expand the development space of Chinese-style modernization. Opening up brings progress, while closure will inevitably lead to backwardness. In the past, China's economic development was achieved under the conditions of opening up, and in the future, China's high-quality economic development must also be achieved under the conditions of a higher level of opening up to the outside world. Using openness to promote reform and development is an important magic weapon for China to continuously achieve new development achievements. Promoting high-level opening up can introduce cutting-edge science and technology, knowledge, talent, and other high-end elements to make up for our shortcomings and strengthen our strengths for high-quality development. At the same time, the rise of anti-globalization ideas, unilateralism, and protectionism has brought new challenges to China's opening up. It has objectively increased the risks for Chinese companies, products and services to "go global" and increased the obstacles to "bringing in." To achieve high-quality development, we must rely on high-level opening up to break through the "small courtyard and high walls" situation, always be the advocate and promoter of an open world economy, expand institutional opening up, jointly build the "Belt and Road" at a high level, accelerate the construction of free trade pilot zones and free trade ports, and vigorously promote economic globalization in a more open, inclusive, equitable, balanced, and win-win direction. Only in this way can we open up new situations and broaden new paths for high-quality development.

#### **(4) A highly competitive modern industrial system**

General Secretary Xi Jinping has pointed out that the modern industrial system is the material and technological foundation of a modern country, and that we must focus on developing the real economy to provide strong material support for achieving the second centenary goal. The industrial system occupies an extremely important position in the economic system, playing a role in creating supply, meeting demand, promoting circulation, and coordinating distribution. Accelerating the construction of this modern industrial system supported by the real economy is related to whether China can gain strategic initiative in future development and international competition. Without the modernization of the industrial system, there will be no modernization of the economy, and the modernization of the country cannot be truly realized. In other words, to build a socialist modern power in an all-round way, the economic system must be strong, and the industrial system must be highly competitive. Compared with the requirements for achieving high-quality development, China's industrial system still has many weaknesses, the most prominent of which are the relatively weak industrial foundation, the low level of industrial development, and the industrial chain as a whole being at the middle to low end of the international division of labor system. It is big but not strong, broad but not deep, and its ability to integrate and control global resources is inadequate. The stability and security of the industrial chain and supply chain are often impacted. To continuously widen the road of high-quality development, we must give priority to building a highly competitive modern industrial system, especially by strengthening the supporting role of the real economy; we must vigorously develop modern agriculture, modern industry, and modern services, promote a virtuous cycle of science and technology, industry, and finance, further integrate into the global industrial division of labor and cooperation, and build a modern industrial system that is independent, controllable, safe, reliable, and internationally competitive.

#### **(5) A highly coordinated regional economic layout**

General Secretary Xi Jinping has pointed out that coordinated development is the key to success. The regional economic layout is the spatial embodiment of national development goals and strategies, and is the spatial carrier for achieving high-quality development. Whether the

regional economic layout is reasonable determines whether a country can achieve balanced and sustainable development in the long term. Since the beginning of the New Era, the gap between urban and rural areas in my country has continued to narrow, the development gap between the central and western regions on the one hand and the eastern regions on the other has generally narrowed, and the balance of urban and rural regional development has increased significantly. It should also be noted that compared with the new situation of urban-rural integrated development and regional complementary advantages and integrated interaction required by high-quality development, the gap between urban and rural areas and regions is still large, and the degree of coordination and integration is still insufficient. To provide more powerful spatial support for high-quality development, we must accelerate the construction of a highly coordinated regional economic layout, make good use of the dialectics of regional coordinated development, promote relative balance in development, identify the main points of effort in the process of continuously narrowing the development gap and strengthening regional linkages, promote the rational flow and efficient aggregation of various factors, and enable each region to build on its comparative advantages and embark on a path of high-quality development that suits its own characteristics.

#### **(6) A high-quality ecological environment**

General Secretary Xi Jinping has pointed out that a high-quality ecological environment should be used to support high-quality development and accelerate the modernization of harmonious coexistence between man and nature. Green is the underlying color of high-quality development, and high-quality development is the kind of development in which green becomes a universal development form. As we enter the stage of high-quality development, we must uphold the important concepts that protecting the ecological environment is protecting productivity, that improving the ecological environment is developing productivity, and that green mountains gold mountains, in order to achieve harmonious coexistence between man and nature. The structural, root, and trend pressures of China's ecological environment protection have not been fundamentally alleviated; the construction of an ecological civilization is still in a critical period of superimposed pressure and heavy burdens, and the time window for carbon peak and carbon neutrality is tight. At the same time, green- and low-carbon transformation is

becoming a new direction for upgrading the world's economic structure, creating new space for economic growth. Green industries are incubating new technologies, spawning new business models, creating new supply, and forming new demand on a global scale. As we enter a stage of high-quality development that accelerates greening and low-carbonization, it is crucial to promote the construction of a high-quality ecological environment. This can reconstruct the production function of high-quality development, transform resource and environmental pressures into new growth drivers, and open up a path towards efficient resource utilization and green, low-carbon, circular development.

### **(7) High-quality living**

General Secretary Xi Jinping has pointed out that we should closely combine high-quality development with meeting the people's needs for a better life, and promote the organic combination and mutual benefit of adhering to ecological priority, promoting high-quality development, and creating a high-quality life. The ultimate goal of promoting high-quality development is to ensure the well-being of the people. Putting people at the center is the fundamental position of China's economic development. The people's yearning for a better life is our goal. The new growth points and new driving forces of China's economy are contained in solving the outstanding problems that are of common concern to the people. Entering the New Era, people's living standards have improved significantly, but they still face many difficulties in education, employment, medical care, housing, and pension. The demand for a better life needs to be matched by higher quality supply. To achieve high-quality development, we must be guided by high-quality life, and firmly grasp the interests that the people care about most. We must ensure and improve people's livelihood in the course of development, unswervingly follow the path of common prosperity, and allow the fruits of reform and development to benefit all people more and more equitably. Only in this way can we lay a solid mass foundation and gather people's strength for the path of high-quality development.

### **(8) Benign interaction between high-quality development and high-level security**

General Secretary Xi Jinping has pointed out that we should adhere to the overall planning of development and security, give equal importance to development and security, and

achieve a virtuous interaction between high-quality development and high-level security. Development is the foundation, and security is the bottom line. Coordinating development and security, enhancing awareness of potential dangers, and being prepared for danger in times of peace are important principles of our party in governing the country. Against the backdrop of world's accelerating changes, the likes of which have not occurred in a century, the situation we face is extremely complex and severe. The external environment has undergone unprecedented significant changes, and the tasks of domestic reform, development, and maintaining stability are complicated and arduous. China's development has entered a period in which strategic opportunities, risks, and challenges coexist, and uncertain and unpredictable factors are increasing. Faced with a risk environment in which various "black swan" and "gray rhino" incidents may occur at any time, we must strengthen risk awareness, establish bottom-line thinking, grasp key links, and focus on preventing risks that may arise in the fields of food, energy, industrial chain supply chain, data, finance, and so on, and use the new security pattern to safeguard the new development pattern, so that high-quality development and high-level security can be dynamically balanced and complement each other in a benign, interactive way, so that the road of high-quality development can become more and more stable.

## **5. Important carriers of high-quality development**

To implement the principle and take the strategic path of high-quality development, it is necessary for all areas of economic and social development and all regions in the east, middle, and west to shoulder the responsibility of promoting high-quality development. On the one hand, we must insist on all-round improvement, without missing any area; on the other hand, we must insist on the whole country as a chessboard, without missing any place.

### **(1) High-quality development is the general requirement for all aspects of economic and social development**

General Secretary Xi Jinping has pointed out that "high-quality development is not just an economic requirement, but a general requirement for all aspects of economic and social development."

In terms of economic development, General Secretary Xi Jinping emphasized, "We must

accelerate the construction of a modern economic system and promote high-quality development of agriculture, manufacturing, and services,” and pointed out that “high-quality development has put forward higher requirements for the development of the private economy,” and has required “promoting high-quality development of the joint construction of the ‘Belt and Road.’” With regard to political construction, he emphasized that “to promote high-quality development, we must uphold and strengthen the Party’s overall leadership and unswervingly govern the Party with strict discipline in an all-round way.” He pointed out, “We must deepen the high-quality development of discipline inspection and supervision work and provide strong guarantees for the realization of the Party’s mission and tasks in the New Era and new journey.” Regarding cultural construction, General Secretary Xi Jinping proposed that “culture is an important fulcrum for promoting high-quality development” and emphasized, “We must promote the high-quality development of the cultural industry, improve the modern cultural industry system and market system, promote the development and growth of various cultural market entities, cultivate new cultural formats and cultural consumption models, and enhance people’s sense of cultural gain and happiness through high-quality cultural supply.” As for social construction, General Secretary Xi Jinping emphasized “promoting high-quality and sustainable development of China’s social security undertakings.” He proposed, “We must persist in taking high-quality development as the lifeline of education at all levels and types, and accelerate the construction of a high-quality education system.” He also required “closely combining high-quality population development with the people’s high quality of life, promoting their all-round development and common prosperity.” With regard to the construction of an ecological civilization, General Secretary Xi Jinping has required “supporting high-quality development with a high-quality ecological environment, and accelerated modernization in which people and nature coexist in harmony,” and he pointed out that “achieving peak carbon and carbon neutrality is an inherent requirement for the implementation of new development concepts, the building of a new development pattern, and the promotion of high-quality development.” In the area of Party building, General Secretary Xi Jinping emphasized that “real efforts must be made to improve the quality of Party member education and management work,” and he proposed that “Party committees (groups) at all levels must earnestly fulfill their main responsibilities of comprehensively and strictly



governing the Party, and promote high-quality development of enterprises with high-quality Party building.”

As we embark on a new journey in the new era, all fields and industries in our country should focus on the primary task of high-quality development, take the initiative to improve the quality and efficiency of development in these fields and industries, and contribute greater strength to the overall quality, efficiency, and power changes in the economy and society.

## **(2) High-quality development is a requirement that must be implemented in all regions**

General Secretary Xi Jinping pointed out that high-quality development "is not just a requirement for economically developed regions, but a requirement that must be implemented in the development of all regions.”

Focusing on key areas, General Secretary Xi Jinping has pointed out that “the Party Central Committee’s development strategy for major regions such as Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei is in line with the needs of high-quality development in China’s New Era and is an effective way to promote Chinese-style modernization.” He has called for "high-standard and high-quality construction of Xiong’an New Area.” He has proposed “making the Yangtze River Economic Belt the main battlefield for China’s ecological priority and green development, unblocking the main artery of domestic and international dual circulation, and leading the main force of high-quality economic development,” and emphasized “making the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area a strategic fulcrum of the new development pattern, a demonstration site for high-quality development, and a leader in Chinese-style modernization.” He has required that the integrated development of the Yangtze River Delta “closely adhere to the two key words of integration and high quality,” stressed that the Yellow River Basin must “take the path of ecological protection and high-quality development,” and put forward clear requirements for high-quality development in the Chengdu-Chongqing area, Northeast China, and other regions.

Focusing on provincial development, General Secretary Xi Jinping has asked Jiangsu to “set an example in reform, innovation, and high-quality development and in serving the country in building a new development pattern, and to take the lead in realizing socialist modernization.” He has planned personally to promote Zhejiang’s high-quality development

and construction of a common prosperity demonstration zone; he has asked Jiangxi to “strive to set an example in accelerating the high-quality development of old revolutionary areas, take the lead in promoting the rise of the central region, and paint a new picture of Jiangxi’s reform and development in the New Era,” and he has asked Hunan to “blaze a new trail in promoting high-quality development.”

He has required Qinghai to “take a path of high-quality development with local characteristics,” and has required Tibet to “work hard to write a new chapter of long-term stability and high-quality development on the snow-capped plateau.” He has put forward clear requirements for other provinces to continuously make new breakthroughs in high-quality development and create new situations for high-quality development.

From the eastern coastal areas to the central and western regions, from major regional strategies, regional coordinated development strategies to urban agglomeration development and provincial development, General Secretary Xi Jinping has put forward clear requirements for adhering to high-quality development, and proposed key directions for promoting high-quality development based on regional and provincial characteristics. Especially since the 20th CPC National Congress (2022), General Secretary Xi Jinping has emphasized the primary task of high-quality development each time he has visited local areas. All regions should take into account their actual conditions, adapt to local conditions, and make the best use of their strengths to overcome their weaknesses, so as to embark on a path of high-quality development that suits their local conditions.

## **6. Leadership for high-quality development**

Promoting high-quality development is a long-term, large-scale, and complex systematic project that requires the gathering of wisdom and strength of all parties, as well as overall planning and coordinated advancement. As the highest political leadership force, the CPC has a strict organizational system and plays a core role in taking charge of the overall situation and coordinating all parties. It is an inevitable requirement to promote high-quality development to integrate the Party’s leadership into all areas and processes of high-quality development. Only by deepening the institutional construction and institutional mechanism guarantee of the Party’s leadership in high-quality development can we ensure that China’s economic and social

development always stands firmly on the people's side and moves in the right direction. Only by establishing a macroeconomic governance system that adapts to high-quality development can we systematically integrate, coordinate, and efficiently exert the effectiveness of economic governance. Only by improving the ability of leading cadres to promote high-quality development can we ensure that all tasks of high-quality development are implemented and completed with high quality.

### **(1) Improving the institutional arrangements for the Party's leadership in high-quality development**

The system is a fundamental, overall, stable, long-term issue related to the cause of the Party and the country, and the system mechanism is the specific manifestation and implementation form of the system. As the theme of China's economic and social development for a long period of time in the future and the primary task of building a modern socialist country in an all-round way, high-quality development is inseparable from the foundation of the system and the guarantee and promotion of the system mechanism. It is imperative to give full play to the Party's role in setting the direction, managing the overall situation, and ensuring implementation in the top-level design, overall layout, overall coordination, overall promotion, and supervision of implementation of major tasks related to high-quality development. It is necessary to improve the system and mechanism of the Party's leadership in economic work, insist on the Politburo Standing Committee of the CPC and the Politburo of the CPC regularly studying and analyzing the economic situation and deciding major economic issues, the Central Financial and Economic Affairs Commission promptly studying major issues of economic and social development, and the Central Commission for Deepening Reform promptly studying major reforms in the economic and social fields, and fully improve the strategic consistency and coordination of Party organizations at all levels in implementing the major economic decisions of the Central Committee.

### **(2) Improving macroeconomic governance in line with the requirements of high-quality development**

Between the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation and the world's great changes, the

likes of which have not been seen in a century, the economic situation is becoming more and more volatile. All the various links in production, distribution, circulation, and consumption may be disrupted through market failures caused by the inability of market mechanisms to fully play their role, resulting in inefficient resource allocation or improper resource allocation. In such situations, the Party and the government must intervene scientifically and rationally. We must better play the strategic guiding role of national planning, so as to transform the Party's propositions into national will, correctly guide market expectations, and fully build consensus on development. We must promote coordination and cooperation among various policies such as fiscal and monetary policies, policies on investment and consumption, industrial regions, science and technology, environmental protection, employment, and people's livelihoods; we must strengthen the assessment of macroeconomic policy consistency, concentrate resources from all sides on promoting high-quality development, rely on high-quality development to solve problems, achieve breakthroughs, achieve greater results, and form a joint force to promote high-quality development.

### **(3) Improving leading cadres' ability to promote high-quality development**

Once the route is determined, cadres are the decisive factor. In the new journey of building a modern socialist country in an all-round way with high-quality development as the primary task, the ability of leading cadres to promote high-quality development is also one of the most important abilities. To effectively improve this ability is also a systematic project, and we can start with abilities in the following areas.

First, in the area of political ability, cadres must be good at grasping the direction, the general trend, and the overall situation so as to ensure that high-quality development always moves forward in the correct political direction. Second, in the area of investigation and research ability, cadres must work hard to be deep, practical, detailed, accurate, and effective. They must be able to discover real problems, and solve them seriously, so that the foundation of high-quality development will be more solid, more complete, and of better quality. Third, in the area of scientific decision-making ability, they must be able to plan the direction, ideas, and policy measures for high-quality development with a strategic vision and awareness of the overall situation. Fourth, in the area of reform and tackling tough problems, they must be able

to achieve reform and innovation on the basis of grasping the laws, and use comprehensive, in-depth reform to add momentum to high-quality development, and then seek breakthroughs. Fifth, in the area of emergency response capabilities, they must be prepared to respond to risks and challenges that may occur at any time during the high-quality development stage, then effectively control the situation and resolve crises. Sixth, in the area of mass work capabilities, they must insist on coming from the masses and going to the masses, so that the people can build and share the fruits of high-quality development. Seventh, in the area of implementation capabilities, they must lead by example, work hard, promote high-quality development, and achieve solid results.

## **Conclusion**

To sum up, the content of high-quality development is becoming increasingly rich, from the stage and form of development, to the kind of development that embodies the new development concept and the theme of economic and social development, and then to the strategy and effectiveness test standards of development, as well as the primary task of building a modern socialist country in an all-round way, one of the essential requirements of Chinese-style modernization, and a firm truth of the New Era. High-quality development is based on the “four musts” as its required principles, with concept guidance as the forerunner, quality transformation as the support, reform and opening up as the driving force, and a better life as the orientation. The strategic path for achieving high-quality development includes high-level scientific and technological self-reliance, a high-standard market system, high-level opening up to the outside world, a highly competitive modern industrial system, a highly coordinated regional economic layout, a high-quality ecological environment, high-quality life, and benign interaction with high-level security. The important carriers can be divided into two categories: fields (industries) and spaces (regions), involving all aspects of economic and social development and all regions of the country. The leading force for China’s high-quality development is the CPC. It is imperative to improve the institutional arrangements for the Party’s leadership in high-quality development, improve the macroeconomic governance system in accordance with the requirements of high-quality development, and enhance the ability of leading cadres to promote high-quality development. High-quality development

already has rich theoretical content, clear principles and requirements, clear path choices, wide coverage of fields and spatial carriers, and strong leadership. It has formed a scientific system with a complete framework, rigorous logic, and depth. It has increasingly demonstrated its leadership and centrality in the theory and practice of Xi Jinping's economic thought. We can foresee that research on high-quality development will continue to be a hot topic in academic and policy circles, and that further breakthroughs are expected to be made in the sorting and refinement of the original theoretical contributions, the deepening and expansion of quantitative measurements and international comparisons, and the tracking and analysis of practices in various industries and regions.

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This article was first published in *Beijing xingzheng xueyuan xuebao* (*Journal of Beijing Administrative College*) on March 18, 2024.

Translated by Thomas E. Smith